

teamwork and dedication, and the Crusaders have shown that they possess both characteristics. The Bluegrass State is widely known for producing great basketball teams, and the June Buchanan Crusaders are no exception. Making it to the state tournament marks a tremendous milestone in their journey for excellence, and I am proud of their accomplishment.

June Buchanan School is located in the small town of Pippa Passes, Kentucky and has 74 students in grades 9 through 12. After winning the regional championship in Southern Kentucky (26–6), the team is playing in the first round of the Kentucky state basketball tournament at Rupp Arena tonight.

Madam Speaker, I want to congratulate the Crusaders for their tremendous success throughout the entire season and wish them the best in the boy's state basketball tournament. Through their hard work, determination, and skill they have made Southeastern Kentucky very proud. I ask each of my colleagues to join me in honoring the June Buchanan basketball team.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT TO THE UNITED STATES

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2007

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, since the United States embarked on a mission to rid the world of terrorism, many of our friends around the world have distanced themselves from America, hoping that will shield them from the wrath of the terrorists will one day bring to their countries. Indonesia has done the opposite: the government of the country home to the world's largest population of Muslims has instead forged stronger ties with the United States.

Recognizing Indonesia's importance on the global stage, its government—first under Megawati Soekarnoputri, and since then, under the leadership of Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono—has worked closely with the United States to fight terrorism, and the spread of radical Islamism. This alliance has come at no small cost to the Indonesians, as terrorists have repeatedly punished Indonesia by targeting hotels, nightclubs and other tourist attractions with deadly acts of terrorism. Nevertheless, the government of Indonesia has not wavered in its commitment, and has proven itself to be a great friend to the United States.

As Indonesia has supported the United States in our Global War against Terrorism, it is important that the United States continues to support Indonesia by recognizing its sovereignty, and that it doesn't intervene into Indonesia's internal matters. The government of Indonesia has proven itself to be more than sufficiently mature and responsible to handle its own internal issues, which relate only to Indonesians, and the United States should respect its abilities. The government of Indonesia has shown America that respect, and I believe we owe it to them to do the same.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PENSION ADJUSTMENT EQUITY ACT OF 2007

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2007

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, along with my colleague from Pennsylvania, Mr. PLATTS, I am proud to introduce the Federal Law Enforcement Pension Adjustment Equity Act of 2007. I am also very pleased to have other distinguished members of this body as original cosponsors of this important bipartisan legislation, including Mr. STUPAK of Michigan and Ms. JO ANN DAVIS, Mr. MORAN and Ms. DRAKE of Virginia.

Retirees of the United States Park Police and the Secret Service Uniformed Division who began their careers before January 1, 1984, were promised that, upon retirement, they would receive increases in their annuities proportional to pay increases for active duty servicemen and women. However, language included into the 2001 Consolidated Appropriations Act specifically denied this promise to this group of retirees as a cost-saving measure.

As a consequence, these retirees have been denied an annuity increase at great personal financial cost, even though they entered federal uniformed service with the promise that these annuities would be there for them upon retirement. This is a gross injustice to those who put their lives on the line every day in service to their country.

That is why we are introducing the Federal Law Enforcement Pension Adjustment Equity Act of 2007, to ensure that Congress does what is right, what is just and what is fair. This legislation is bipartisan and should not be controversial. It is my hope that this body can move this bill expeditiously through the legislative process and correct an injustice against uniformed federal personnel who have been willing to make the ultimate sacrifice to serve our country.

NATIONAL AGRICULTURE DAY

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2007

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, today is National Agriculture Day. National Agriculture Day occurs every year on the first day of Spring. This is a week when we honor agriculture for providing safe, abundant and affordable products, a strong economy, a source of renewable energy, and a world of job opportunities.

It goes without saying that agriculture is tremendously important to my district and the nation as a whole, and I hope you join me in celebrating everyone who works so hard to provide for the world.

The Third District of Nebraska is one of the largest agricultural districts in the country. Our district ranks first in the value of sales of grains and oilseeds, second in total value of agricultural products sold, and first in cattle and calve inventory.

Simply put: Agriculture matters. National Agriculture Week is about celebrating the impact the industry has on our State, our Nation, and our everyday lives. I'm proud to represent the Third District of Nebraska, a district that truly embodies the spirit of this celebration.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MAIL-IN- BALLOT TRACKING ACT OF 2007

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2007

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Mail-In Ballot Tracking Act of 2007—a bill to implement procedures for tracking the growing number of ballots in States throughout the country that are transmitted through the mail.

Although voters across the Nation are increasingly choosing to cast their ballots by mail because it is more convenient and they have more time to study their choices, many voters have been hesitant to do so because, quite frankly, they are worried that they cannot determine for certain where their mail ballots are in the system and whether they were actually received and counted.

In most cases, the fears of one's mail-in ballot somehow being lost in the system are unfounded—but we all know the fear is still there. Our Nation's voters deserve electoral procedures that are transparent and which strengthen their faith in democracy.

Sometimes there is reason for concern. I have heard horror stories from people who simply did not receive a ballot they requested.

Other voters have called their overwhelmed elections offices and waited on hold for too long trying to find out whether their ballot has been mailed or received. Even when they get to speak with an informed elections official, that official often cannot tell the voter where the ballot is because it is somewhere in the postal system.

The good news is that it is possible and practical to track mail ballots.

We have been tracking the process of overnight packages for years by using the Internet and the telephone. There is no reason why we cannot track ballots using similar technology.

In fact, some jurisdictions such as San Mateo County, CA are already tracking ballots with great success.

The United States Postal Service is currently introducing an "Intelligent Mail" system which, if applied to election mail, will allow voters to find out via the Internet or the telephone which postal processing facility last handled their ballots and when they were handled there.

Quite simply, the technology will soon exist to seamlessly track ballots from the time they are sent out from the appropriate elections office to the time they are received back and include all the key postal points along the way.

Implementing ballot tracking systems will bring voters peace of mind and reduce the burden on elections offices which are often barraged with phone calls from voters trying to determine the status of their ballots.

This legislation will also allow a voter to know whether his or her ballot passed the verification stage and will be counted.

Not only is mail ballot tracking feasible and helpful, but it is also affordable.

Setting up systems at an elections office can be as simple as redesigning a website.

Adding barcodes to envelopes already going through the postal process can cost tiny fractions of a penny per piece.

Purchasing any additional scanning or telephone equipment is also relatively inexpensive for election technology.

Mail ballot tracking could even help elections offices save money in the long run as call volumes will likely go down and the strain on staff declines.

Mail ballot tracking is a win-win for all.

I believe it will increase voter participation as it increases peace of mind.

We should follow the lead of the trailblazers who are already tracking mail ballots and ensure this level of security, transparency, and accountability to all voters who either choose to vote by mail or who live in one of the growing number of localities holding all-mail elections.

I ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in supporting this effort to strengthen the democratic process and give American voters the electoral certainty they deserve.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I was not present for votes on Monday, March 19 and Tuesday, March 20, 2007 because I was meeting with British Members of Parliament in an effort to build an international coalition to end the Iraq War. If I was present, I would have voted:

"Yea" on rollcall No. 157 (H.R. 138, Recognizing the importance of Hot Springs National Park on its 175th anniversary);

"Yea" on rollcall No. 158 (H.R. 658, Natural Resource Protection Cooperative Agreement Act);

"Yea" on rollcall No. 159 (H.R. 839, Arthur V. Watkins Dam Enlargement Act);

"Yea" on rollcall No. 160 (H. Res. 254, Providing for consideration of the bill [H.R. 1227] to assist in the provision of affordable housing to low income families affected by Hurricane Katrina);

"Yea" on rollcall No. 161 (H. Con. Res. 42, Honoring the heroic service and sacrifice of the 6,500 glider pilots of the United States Army Air Forces during World War II);

"Yea" on rollcall No. 162 (H.R. 759, Redesignating the Ellis Island Library on Ellis Island, NY as the "Bob Hope Memorial Library");

"Yea" on rollcall No. 163 (On approving the Journal);

"No" on rollcall No. 164 (Hensarling Amendment to H.R. 1227, to require recipients of rental assistance under the bill to perform 20 hours per week of approved work activities);

"No" on rollcall No. 165 (Biggert Amendment to H.R. 1227, to require that, instead of replacing all pre-Katrina public housing units, only the number of public housing units occupied pre-Katrina be replaced); and

"Aye" on rollcall No. 166 (Al Green Amendment to H.R. 1227, to extend FEMA housing assistance for evacuees of Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma until December 31, 2007 and

provide tenant-based voucher assistance upon termination of FEMA housing assistance for eligible families)

PREVENTING HARASSMENT THROUGH OUTBOUND NUMBER ENFORCEMENT (PHONE) ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support H.R. 740, because it is important that we broaden the scope of current law to prohibit a person from engaging in "spoofing," which is the use of incorrect, fake or fraudulent caller identification—caller ID—to hide their identity in order to facilitate a fraudulent telephone call to the recipient. In addition, the bill provides the tools needed for the Department of Justice to prosecute and protect against criminals who engage in spoofing.

H.R. 740, the Preventing Harassment through Outbound Number Enforcement—PHONE—Act of 2007, is intended to help protect consumers from harassment, identity theft, and other crimes. The legislation creates a new Federal crime to prohibit using or providing, in interstate or foreign commerce, false caller ID information with the intent to defraud.

Recently, the technology needed to spoof has become readily available, either through the purchase of Internet telephone equipment or through Web sites specifically set up to spoof. For example, Voice-over-Internet-Protocol—VOIP—equipment can easily be configured to populate the caller ID field with information of the user's choosing. Some of the technology can block any back technology such as the star symbol or dash 69.

Caller ID spoofing is a form of identity theft that can cause damaged credit and financial ruin. Call recipients sometimes divulge personal and private information to the spoofer, under the mistaken belief that the caller is a legitimate caller. For example, the AARP—formerly the American Association of Retired Persons—has reported cases in which people received calls that made false claims that they missed jury duty. To avoid prosecution, these individuals were told they needed to provide their Social Security number and other personal information. The phone number that appeared on their caller ID was from the local courthouse, so people assumed the caller was telling the truth.

In addition to identity theft, spoofing invades the privacy of those individuals whose caller ID is used to mask fraudulent calls and can be used as a form of aggressive harassment. The use of this technology has been linked to fraud, prank telephone calls, political attacks, and telemarketers who attempt to avoid the current "do not call" limits.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support H.R. 740 and urge my colleagues to join me in voting for its passage.

186TH ANNIVERSARY OF GREEK INDEPENDENCE

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2007

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in acknowledgement of last week's consideration and passage of H. Res. 228, a bill recognizing the 186th anniversary of the independence of Greece and celebrating Greek and American democracy.

I am honored to have supported a bill whose significance is so extensive and which has such enormous personal meaning to me.

My paternal grandfather emigrated from Greece in the early 20th century and earned his citizenship in his new country by fighting in World War I. My father, Socrates, continued the Space family's patriotic tradition by serving in the Marines during the Korean War. After the war, my father attended Ohio State's law school, thanks to the GI Bill.

I am immensely proud of my Greek heritage, but I'm also proud of the Greek American community. In fact, I'm proud of the symbiotic relationship between my Greek heritage and the Greek-American legacy.

The opportunities afforded to my father and my father's father in America were—in my opinion—a result of the democratic by-products of freedom and liberty that Americans enjoy, thanks to the Greeks.

Early on, America's Founding Fathers looked to the ancient Greeks and their enlightened society for inspiration in forming a new government. In fact, American representative democracy, as we know it, is rooted in the philosophy and ethos of the Greeks.

Today, as we celebrate the anniversary of this wonderful Nation's independence, it's important that we continue to recognize the significance of Greek contributions to the global society. As an American, and as a Greek, I very much support the sentiment of H. Res. 228.

HONORING U.S. NAVY COMMANDER CAROL BOHN

HON. JERRY MCNERNEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2007

Mr. MCNERNEY. Madam Speaker, I ask my Colleagues to join me in honoring Commander Carol Bohn, U.S. Navy, Retired.

Commander Bohn provided outstanding service to our country as a commissioned officer, and in retirement, she continues to provide exceptional service to the Tri Valley community and to our men and women in uniform.

Commander Bohn's family instilled in her a deep-rooted sense of commitment to public service. Her late mother and father were World War II veterans, her sister currently serves as a Captain in the U.S. Navy and her brother serves as a Captain in the Navy Reserve.

Commander Bohn gave 25 years of exemplary service to our country in the U.S. Navy Nurse Corp. This included a tour aboard the Hospital Ship USNS Mercy during Operation Desert Storm, when she provided care and comfort to wounded service members.